

1-20. CANCELLED

21. (NEW) A method for affording guidance in bringing an aircraft or other vehicle to a defined position in a docking station, wherein a horizontal indicator fixed relative to the docking station is viewed along an inclined line of sight from the vehicle against the background of a vertical array of a multiplicity of horizontal rows of light sources spaced at a distance behind the horizontal indicator, the light sources being energised selectively by row to emit light that defines a horizontal datum in the array, manoeuvre of the vehicle towards the docking station reducing visually the vertical separation between the horizontal indicator and the horizontal datum until they are visually aligned with one another when the vehicle is located in said defined position in the docking station.

22. (NEW) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of aligning the array to comprise vertical columns and horizontal rows of light sources, and energizing the light sources of a horizontal row of the array to define the horizontal datum.

23. (NEW) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of defining the horizontal indicator by energising light sources.

24. (NEW) The method according to claim 22, further comprising the step of using light-emitting diodes as the light sources.

25. (NEW) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of locating a vertical indicator with the horizontal indicator and the background includes a vertical datum, the method including viewing the vertical and horizontal indicators along the inclined line of sight against the vertical and horizontal datums of the background, manoeuvre of the vehicle towards and into an alignment with the docking station reducing visually both the vertical separation between the horizontal indicator

and the horizontal datum as aforesaid, and the horizontal separation between the vertical indicator and the vertical datum.

26. (NEW) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of defining the vertical indicator by energising light sources.

27. (NEW) The method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of using light-emitting diodes as the light sources of the vertical indicator.

28. (NEW) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the steps of forming the array to comprise an array of vertical columns and horizontal rows of light sources, and energizing at least some of the light sources of two spaced columns of the array to define the vertical datum.

29. (NEW) The method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of forming the two columns within a pair of baffle-screens such that according to deviation of the vehicle to one side or the other out of the alignment with the docking station, one or other of the columns is obscured by the baffle-screens from view along the line of sight.

30. (NEW) The method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of forming two further columns of the array which lie outside the pair of baffle-screens are obscured by the baffle-screens from view along the line of sight while the vehicle is in said alignment with the docking station, and one or the other of the two further columns come into view along the line of sight in dependence upon the extent of deviation of the vehicle to the left or right respectively from that alignment.

31. (NEW) Apparatus for affording guidance in bringing an aircraft or other vehicle to a defined position in a docking station, comprising a horizontal indicator fixed relative to the docking station, a vertical array of a multiplicity of horizontal rows of light sources, the array being spaced at a distance behind the horizontal indicator, and

means for energising the light sources selectively by row to emit light, the emitted light defining a horizontal datum in the array such that when the horizontal indicator is viewed along an inclined line of sight from the vehicle manoeuvre of the vehicle towards the docking station reduces visually the vertical separation between the horizontal indicator and the horizontal datum until they are visually aligned with one another when the vehicle is located in said defined position in the docking station.

32. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the array comprises an array of vertical columns and horizontal rows of light sources, and wherein the apparatus includes means for selecting a row of the array, and means for energising the light sources of the selected row to define the horizontal datum.

33. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the horizontal indicator is defined by light sources.

34. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the light sources are light-emitting diodes.

35. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein a vertical indicator is located with the horizontal indicator and the array includes a vertical datum that is spaced at said distance behind the horizontal and vertical indicators such that when the vertical and horizontal indicators are viewed along the inclined line of sight against the vertical and horizontal datums, manoeuvre of the vehicle towards and in alignment with the docking station reduces visually both the vertical separation between the horizontal indicator and the horizontal datum as aforesaid, and the horizontal separation between the vertical indicator and the vertical datum.

36. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the vertical indicator is defined by light sources.

37. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the light sources of the vertical indicator are light-emitting diodes.

38. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 35 wherein the array comprises an array of vertical columns and horizontal rows of light sources, and wherein at least some of the light sources of two spaced columns of the array are energised to define the vertical datum.

39. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the two columns lie within a pair of baffle-screens such that according to deviation of the vehicle to one side or the other out of the alignment with the docking station, one or other of the columns is obscured by the baffle-screens from view along the line of sight.

40. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein two further columns of the array lie outside the pair of baffle-screens to be obscured by the baffle-screens from view along the line of sight while the vehicle is in said alignment with the docking station, and one of the two further columns comes into view along the line of sight, the particular one of the two further columns that comes into view along the line of sight being dependent upon the extent and sense of deviation of the vehicle laterally from that alignment.